

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

https://twitter.com/SD_Guard



April 23, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sturgis man named SD Guard Warrant Officer of the Year

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The South Dakota National Guard named a Sturgis man as the 2015 recipient of the CW4 Michael F. O'Connor Warrant Officer of the Year Award.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Hoey, who currently serves as commander of the 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team), was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer after competing against warrant officers from each of the SDARNG's major commands.

The award was presented by the National Guard Association of South Dakota at its annual officers' conference in Huron, April 18.

"Being named the warrant officer of the year is extremely humbling," Hoey said. "I really feel that my Soldiers and my staff, including the battalion staff, did all of the work. I simply followed the guidance that I was given."

Hoey, who has 21 years of military service, five as an active duty Marine and 17 in the South Dakota Army National Guard, manages both the 216th and 451st Firefighting Teams, a non-traditional command assignment for warrant officers.

"CW2 Hoey's leadership and dedication to this organization is reflected in the excellence of the firefighting teams," said Lt. Col. Michael Snow, commander of the 881st Troop Command. "His units are a cohesive group of highly motivated professionals. Under his leadership, they have proven themselves both at home and abroad."

Hoey deployed to Kuwait with the SDARNG's 155th Engineer Detachment from June 2002 to February 2003 as an electrician team leader.

"When we were in Kuwait, five of us had the very unique opportunity to deploy from Kuwait to Djibouti, Africa," Hoey said. "So I spent three months in Djibouti as a team leader."

In addition to his responsibilities in the firefighting teams, Hoey works fulltime for the SDARNG's Training Site, where he manages facilities at Fort Meade, Sturgis and Belle Fourche.

"I can't wait to get back to drill so that I can personally thank each and every one of my Soldiers in the 216th and 451st for helping make this happen," said Hoey. "It's a great honor to be part of such a cohesive team."

-more-

“When my name was called I was completely stunned,” Hoey said. “I knew how fierce the competition would be, because I know the other warrants that were boarded and they are extremely high caliber warrant officers.”

Other warrant officers representing their major command for this year’s award competition were Chief Warrant Officer 3 Wesley Walker, Joint Force Headquarters, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Simon, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

The CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Award was established in 2000 to recognize the most outstanding South Dakota Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the past year. Criterion for the award is based on exceptional qualities of technical knowledge, leadership, dedication and initiative.

-30-

High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotanguard



150418-Z-FO377-028: The South Dakota National Guard presented Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Hoey, center, of Sturgis, S.D., with the CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Warrant Officer of the Year Award. Hoey, who currently serves as commander of the 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team), was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer after competing against warrant officers from each of the SDARNG’s major commands. On hand to present the award were Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG’s adjutant general, and Lt. Col. Steven Siemonsma, president of the National Guard Association of South Dakota. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson/Released)



150418-Z-FO377-035: The South Dakota National Guard presented Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Hoey, of Sturgis, S.D., with the CW4 Michael F. O’Connor Warrant Officer of the Year Award. Hoey, who currently serves as commander of the 216th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting Team), was selected as the most exceptional warrant officer after competing against warrant officers from each of the SDARNG’s major commands. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil